

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 03325 01 OF 02 281606Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /058 W
-----281744Z 030551 /47

P R 281505Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1115
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 3325

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PINT PO
SUBJECT: EANES SPEECH STIRS CONTROVERSY

REF: LISBON 3246 (DTG 261425Z APR 77)

SUMMARY: POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS AND PRESS COMMENTATORS
HAVE STIMULATED A PUBLIC DEBATE ON THE MEANING OF THE
PRESIDENT'S APR 25 ADDRESS TO THE ASSEMBLY. PSD LEADER
SA CARNEIRO CALLED EANES'S SPEECH A SERIOUS WARNING TO
THE GOVERNMENT. SOARES TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT EANES
HAD ASSURED HIM ON APR 26 OF HIS UNDIMINISHED SUPPORT.
EMBASSY READING CONTINUES TO BE THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS
SERVED NOTICE TO THE GOVERNMENT, THE ASSEMBLY, AND THE
POLITICAL PARTIES TO CLOSE THE GAP BETWEEN REVOLUTIONARY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 03325 01 OF 02 281606Z

OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE. THE SPEECH SHOULD NOT,
HOWEVER, BE READ AS AN ULTIMATUM. END SUMMARY.

1. SA CARNEIRO'S INTERPRETATION: PSD PRESIDENT SA
CARNEIRO TOLD THE AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFF APR 27 THAT
PRESIDENT EANES'S APR 25 SPEECH (REFTEL) WAS A CLEAR
WARNING TO THE GOVERNMENT, THE PCP, AND THE ASSEMBLY.

SA CARNEIRO CITED WHAT HE SAID WERE SEVERAL SPECIFIC WARNINGS TO JUSTICEMINISTER ALMEIDA E SANTOS TO MOVE MORE DECISIVELY ON LAW AND ORDER UNDER THREAT OF "EXCEPTIONAL PRESIDENTIAL MEASURES." SA CARNEIRO ALSO POINTED TO EANES'S COMPLAINT ABOUT HESITATIONS AND POSTPONEMENTS AS A SERIOUS WARNING TO THE GOVERNMENT. AT HIS APR 26 AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE PRIOR TO LEAVING FOR THE U.S., SA CARNEIRO SAID THE PRESIDENT HAD INITIALLY GIVEN THE GOVERNMENT A NINE-MONTH MANDATE, AND WAS ON APR 25 ANNOUNCING HIS DISSATISFACTION WITH ITS PERFORMANCE.

2. PARTY AND PRESS COMMENTS: IN APR 26 CONVERSATIONS WITH THE AMBASSADOR, EMBOFFS, AND ARMAN POLITICAL OBSERVERS OFFERED THEIR VIEWS OF THE PRESIDENT'S APR 25 SPEECH:

-- "EXPRESSO" ASSISTANT EDITOR MARCELO REBELO DE SOUSA (PSD): EANES'S SPEECH MARKED THE BEGINNING OF A "PRESIDENTIAL GOVERNMENT." THE PRESIDENT WILL ASK SOARES TO FORM A GOVERNMENT WITH A CABINET OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS FROM THE THREE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES.

-- FORMER BEJA CIVIL GOVERNOR LTC FIGUEIRA: EANE'S SPEECH WAS A CLEAR AND OVERT WARNING TO THE GOVERNMENT.

-- PS NATIONAL SECRETARIAT MEMBER ALBERTO ARONS DE CARVALHO: THE PS DID NOT INTERPRET EANES'S SPEECH AS A MANDATE TO FORM A COALITION GOVERNMENT. THE PS WOULD NOT AGREE TO TAKE OTHER PARTIES INTO THE GOVERNMENT IN ANY CASE. PRESIDENT EANES HAD PRIVATELY ASSURED SOARES OF HIS BACKING.

-- PRESIDENT'S MILITARY ADVISER MAJ PIMENTOL: EANES INTEND-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LISBON 03325 01 OF 02 281606Z

ED HIS SPEECH TO BE VERY TOUGH; ACTION WILL FOLLOW.

. SOARES DENIES PRESIDENTIAL WARNING: PRIME MINISTER SOARES ACKNOWLEDGED TO THE AMBASSADOR APR 27 THAT PRESIDENT EANES'S REMARKS ON APR 5 WOULD COMPLICATE MATTERS FOR THE GOVERNMENT. SOARES SAID HE HAD PREVIOUSLY ADVISED EANES NOT TO GET TOO CLOSE TO THE SOCIALISTS, SINCE HE HAD TO MAINTAIN HIS OPTIONS. NOW EANES HAD GONE TO THE OTHER EXTREME BY GETTING INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS. HIS STATEMENTS WOULD AWAKEN NOSTALGIA FOR A RETURN TO THE PAST. THIS ONLY PLAYED INTO THE HANDS OF THE COMMUNISTS AND THE RIGHT. SOARES SAID HE HAD LAID ALL THIS OUT FOR EANES DURING A MEETING THE PREVIOUS EVENING. EANES HAD RESPONDED THAT ATTACKING THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN FARTHEST FROM HIS MIND; HE CONTINUED TO SUPPORT SOARES FULLY. EANES ADDED THAT HE WOULD CORRECT THE FALSE IMPRESSION HIS REMARKS HAD CREATED. SOARES SAID HE TOOK THE PRESIDENT AT HIS WORD, NOTING THAT "EANES IS STILL SOMEWHAT INEXPERIENCED."

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 03325 02 OF 02 281610Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /058 W
-----281744Z 030584 /47

P R 281505Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1116
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LISBON 3325

4. SOARES GOES PUBLIC: UPON HIS APR 27 DEPARTURE
FOR STRASBOURG TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, SOARES
MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS ON THE GROWING CONTROVERSY:
-- GOVERNMENT RETAINS PRESIDENT'S CONFIDENCE: THE
GOVERNMENT RETAINS THE FULL CONFIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT.
LESS THAN A MONTH AGO THE PRESIDENT SPECIFICALLY AND
PUBLICLY REITERATED HIS COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN THE
GOVERNMENT.
-- WARNING NOT DIRECTED AT GOVERNMENT: IT WOULD BE
INCORRECT TO INTERPRET THE PRESIDENT'S WORDS AS
DIRECTED AT THE GOVERNMENT. RATHER THEY WERE A GENERAL
WARNING, CALLING ATTENTION TO A CERTAIN INACTIVITY ON
THE PART OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND IN A BROADER
SENSE CALLING UPON ALL PORTUGUESE TO MEET THEIR
RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE NATION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 03325 02 OF 02 281610Z

-- BAITING SA CARNEIRO: "I DO NOT UNDERSTAND HOW SA CARNEIRO CAN CONSIDER THE GOVERNMENT TO BE INCOMPETENT AND FAIL TO DO ANYTHING TO CHANGE THE SITUATION."
-- NO CHANGES NOW: THE MAKEUP OF THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT REMAINS VALID. THE PS CONTINUES TO REJECT COALITIONS WITH EITHER THE LEFT OR THE RIGHT.

5. COMMENT: EANES'S SPEECH, TOUGH BY PORTUGUESE STANDARDS, WAS CLEARLY INTENDED TO ADDRESS THE FRUSTRATIONS FELT BY MANY PORTUGUESE. WITH THE ARMED FORCES LARGELY IN HAND, THE PRESIDENT HAS STEPPED UP HIS INVOLVEMENT IN GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS. CONTINUED BYPLAY WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OVER THEIR RESPECTIVE ROLES CAN BE EXPECTED. THE EANES SPEECH SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, BE READ AS AN ULTIMATUM TO THE GOVERNMENT OR AS A DECLARATION OF INTENT BY EANES TO TAKE CHARGE. OUR READING CONTINUES TO BE THAT STATED IN REFTEL: THE PRESIDENT IS CONCERNED BY THE WIDE DISPARITY BETWEEN REVOLUTIONARY OBJECTIVES AND POLITICAL PERFORMANCE, AND HAS SERVED NOTICE THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS THE GOVERNMENT, THE ASSEMBLY, AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES TO CLOSE THE GAP.
CARLUCCI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, LAW, SPEECHES, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LISBON03325
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770148-1251
Format: TEL
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770410/aaaaahyf.tel
Line Count: 193
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 08e2b39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LISBON 3246
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2660163
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EANES SPEECH STIRS CONTROVERSY
TAGS: PINT, PO, (EANES, ANTONIO DOS SANTOS RAMALHO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/08e2b39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009